

CELLULAR INFLAMMATION.

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CELLULAR INFLAMMATION.

By Edward Warren, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

FEB. 9TH.—Mr. ——— desired me to look at his hand, upon the inner side of which, at the joint of the middle finger, was a small blister produced by handling heavy and wet substances. He had opened it with a penknife, and it was now very painful. I advised him to keep it constantly poulticed.

Two days after this, he rode about ten miles, and returned after a day spent in business attended with great anxiety. His hand now became very painful. I saw him the next morning. I found him in a state of great excitement, the pain in his hand very violent and attended with great constitutional irritation. The whole hand was now of a dark red color and greatly swollen. The redness and swelling did not, however, extend above the wrist. The tongue was thickly coated, pulse rapid, bowels costive. All the symptoms of high febrile excitement were present. I ordered warm fomentations to the hand, a powder of ten grains of calomel with ten of jalap, to be repeated if necessary; and pills composed of calomel, antimony and opium, after the operation.

Feb. 12th.—Calmer. Less constitutional irritation; but the hand continues as painful and the swelling has not subsided. I now applied four leeches; and ordered the warm fomentations and the opiate pills to be continued.

13th.—Hand somewhat less painful, but still very much swollen. The inflammation shows no disposition to extend above the wrist.

14th.—As yesterday. The mouth is slightly affected by the pills. Bowels very torpid. I directed large doses of Epsom salts, to be followed, if necessary, by injections.

15th.—Suppuration has commenced from all the punctures formed by the leeches.

From this time to the end of the month the suppuration continued very freely, the swelling on the back of the hand slowly subsided, the constitutional irritation diminished, and the pain became less. But at this time there appeared one or two red swellings upon the palm of the hand. The original sore on the inside of the first joint of the second finger, still remained open, the second and third fingers were greatly swollen, and the inflammation had extended to the fore finger; but the little finger and the thumb were still entirely free from disease.

March 1st.—After imprudently exposing himself at an open window, the pain in the hand was greatly increased, the whole arm became swollen and painful, and red lines were seen extending from the wrist to the elbow. Quick pulse, nausea, great prostration, suppuration suppressed, obstinate constipation and suppression of urine. The sores having a bad appearance, I substituted a rye meal poultice instead of the bread and milk poultice; applied powdered bark to the sores, and exhibited an emetic of ipecac. and calomel, followed by a powerful cathartic; and this failing, by an injection of gruel with an ounce of castor oil.

2nd.—Swelling of the arm less. Hand begins to suppurate more freely.

7th.—No great alteration. The bowels have continued costive; he has frequently taken two ounces of Epsom salts, succeeded by an injection. He takes at night a mixture of wine of antimony, spirits of nitrous ether, and laudanum. Gets no sleep without opiates. The swelling of the hand is now less, and one or two of the openings have ceased to suppurate, but there are now orifices in the palm of the hand, at the first and second joints of the middle finger, and first joint of the fore finger, which discharge freely a thick pus. Matter has formed beneath the skin on the back of the hand and fingers, and the skin has peeled off. After using the rye poultice for about three days, I substituted one of carrots.

The disease was now in a sluggish state; slowly healing in some parts, but progressing in others. Ragged, fungous-looking orifices gradually formed at every joint of the fingers; the little finger and thumb, which for a long time remained sound, becoming gradually affected. These orifices were connected with each other beneath the skin, a probe passing readily from one to another, through the cellular membrane, but no deeper. In several places, also, spots appeared in the new skin, beginning with a speck hardly larger than the point of a pin. This immediately began to suppurate and a new fistula was speedily formed, connecting with the general purulent dépôt, which was formed in fact by the whole cellular membrane of the hand.

Through the whole course of the disease he was directed to keep the hand as still as possible, any motion always producing a sensible effect for the worse. As soon as the stomach became regulated, after the exacerbation of March 1st, I commenced giving him tr. sulphat. quinine. I applied strong mercurial ointment at several intervals, which was continued for several days at a time, with no apparent benefit. As the discharge abated, I discontinued the poultices, and commenced bathing with hot spirit; but after three or four days, during which the hand improved, the arm swelled and became painful, the red lines were again visible, and there were other indications of constitutional affection. The bathing was therefore abandoned, and the poultices resumed. The swelling left the arm, but increased upon the hand.

The discharge, which for a long time was very profuse, abated gradually during the month of March; but he gained strength very slowly. He was very cautiously put upon a more generous diet, and allowed first

a glass of porter, and then wine in addition to the quinine, which was gradually increased. I should state, also, that at various times mercury was employed internally as well as externally, but it appeared to do harm. Calomel given as a cathartic produced great distress.

Early in April, he began to walk out; most of the orifices having now closed, and the discharge almost ceased. The poultices, and the wine and quinine, were continued. The sluggishness of the bowels had been gradually overcome, and they were now kept regular by laxative diet.

At the very last moment of cure, the first joint of the fore-finger, which had healed with the exception of an opening at this joint, began to project inward so as to extend the finger, and draw it backward. The swelling and soreness prohibited any attempt to confine it by pressure, and great pain was produced by any attempt at flexion. Just at this time the arm became slightly affected, and the wrist affected so as to make rotation painful. For a short time, I daily flexed it as far as the patient would permit, but the pain produced, as well as the fear of constitutional irritation, which was still so easily excited, prevented flexion being carried far.

On discontinuing my attendance, I strongly urged upon him the importance of daily flexion without regard to the pain; but the long confinement he had undergone, together with the very slow departure of the soreness, prevented any very resolute efforts in opposition to the pain. The finger has continued to point outward, and is very slightly susceptible of motion. In all other particulars his recovery is perfect.

The result of this case was more favorable than I had anticipated. The state of the patient at several times led me to entertain serious apprehensions for his life. The idea of limiting the disease by amputation, was evidently not to be thought of for a moment, for although, contrary to my first expectation, the local disease confined itself to the hand; yet it evidently depended upon constitutional irritation. The bad appearance of the sores, the extent of the fistulæ, and the depth to which the probe passed, seemed to render it almost certain that the deeper tissues were or would be involved. Yet these all escaped, except in the fore-finger, which was the last affected and in the slightest degree.

I may mention one curious circumstance connected with this case. I dressed the hand twice daily for some time, and in the early stage of the disease, having some scratches upon my right hand, sores formed, commencing with a minute scarlet elevation, attended with stinging. This soon filled with water; and when punctured, a deep minute ulcer appeared, such as might be made in wax by the head of a pin. This soon filled with caseous matter; the inflammation extended in a circle, and a large pimple was formed, which discharged freely. The pain from these sores seemed to strike in, as it were, to the bone, and thence extend up the arm. They were easy when the hand was kept up and at rest, but on allowing the arm to hang down, the pain affected the whole limb, and a degree of nausea was felt. In every stage, these sores were aggravated by any stimulant application, by bathing with spirit, by mercurial ointment, by pressure, or by motion. The only means of relieving them

was by keeping a poultice on, through their whole course of healing; matter beginning to form anew, as soon as they were exposed to the slightest injury from without. In healing, the skin peeled off in an extending circle from the point first affected; leaving the new skin rough as a nutmeg grater. One of these sores, which exhibited these symptoms in their fullest extent, appeared spontaneously, without any previous lesion of the skin. These sores, when nearly healed, were several times renewed, in consequence of the absorption of fresh matter, by inadvertently using my right hand in dressing the patient's, thus proving incontestably the source from which they were derived.

December 11th, 1846.

CONCLUSION OF THE REPORT OF M. VELPEAU.

By F. Willis Fisher, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.—See p. 429.]

DISEASES OF THE GENITO-URINARY ORGANS OF WOMEN.

THESE diseases have been divided thus—four cases of abscess, four fistulas, nine cases of granulations of the neck of the uterus, five deviations, four polypi, three incurable cancers, three metrorrhagies, and two cysts. The abscesses of the vulva have all presented the same characters; all were situated at the bottom of the external labia. In every case the abscess was formed in less than eight days, and did not exceed the size of an egg. They gave issue to a thick inodorous pus when the abscess was opened early; after eight days the suppuration became dark and fetid. This last character is worthy of interest. The odor that is observed in some purulent collections is evidently owing to the neighborhood of a mucous membrane, and these abscesses are more odorous as their march has been more acute, and according as they have been opened, or allowed to open themselves at a later period. Moreover, the odor varies according to the cavity they are near: about the urethra, one recognizes the putrid urine; about the chest, an odor of gangrene; in the neighborhood of the abdomen, a sour odor of imperfectly digested matters; about the anus, the pus has a fecal smell. These remarks are useful in forming a prognosis. Boyer thought that the pus which had a stercoral odor, always indicated a complete fistula; this is not always true. Odorous pus coming from a limb is a sign of a disease of the bone. Abscesses of the vulva are generally owing to excess in the functions of the genital organs; they are only met with in young women. One question remains doubtful in regard to this disease, whether, as M. Hugnier thinks, the inflammation occupies the gland itself; as for ourselves, we do not think this always the case. Several reasons authorize this doubt; if the phlegmasia occupied the gland exclusively, one would not observe at the opening of the abscess that kind of pus which is formed there. Generally, this pus is creamy and thick; but we know that the suppuration of the gland is not free, it is composed of serous and mucous parts. Besides, the

glands are organs which are rarely inflamed ; the sub-maxillary gland, the parotid, excepting the swellings about the ear, and after typhoid fever, are not frequently the seat of inflammation ; the liver, even, and the kidneys, are rarely inflamed. Thus, according to Velpeau, the inflammation of the glands of Bartholin is an undecided question, and remains a subject for investigation. The therapeutics of these abscesses is limited to opening them as soon as there is pus, and perhaps sooner ; in general, they ought to be opened early, to avoid the destruction of the tissue and the formation of a large sinus. It is better to make the opening upon the side of the skin rather than through the mucous membrane, as one would be conducted there if he examined nothing but the thinness of the tissues to decide where to make the incision. The reason of our choice for the evacuation of the pus is found in the difficulty of cicatrization of the openings made upon the internal face of the great labia. This surface, in apposition with that of the opposite side, by the mucous membrane, is kept wet by fluids which are opposed to the complete healing. There is still another advantage in opening the abscess upon the external face ; the two great lips, in approaching, exercise a gentle compression upon each other, the effect of which continually tends to the discharge of the pus and to unite the walls of the abscess. The vulvo-rectal fistulas have been submitted to two trials of a new operation, but these attempts are yet too incomplete to form an opinion of their value. Our idea was to create a recto-perineal fistula by means of a seton, with a design of obliterating the vaginal portion of the fistula, and afterwards to heal that which we had established ; but we repeat, that our attempts are too incomplete to draw any conclusion from them.

The granulations of the neck of the uterus is a disease so common that we shall consider them in detail, because many physicians confound certain diseases of the womb, granulations, ulcers, cancers, &c. We establish, first, that one seldom finds other lesions than granulations of the neck among those generally called ulcers. This deserves attention. Practitioners who have studied these affections specially, see most frequently granulations ; but as women now-a-days are easily frightened on account of these diseases, if the physician has not made a profound study of them, he may take these granulations for some grave disease, or, *vice versa*, may take some ulcerous or grave cancerous affections for simple granulations. The diseases of the neck of the womb must be ranked in two distinct classes : those which compromise the life of the patient ; true ulcers ; the cancers ; perhaps venereal ulcers. These are rare, but it is necessary to include the serpiginous ulcerations, phagedenic ulcers, and a form of cancer. This last kind of ulcer is not preceded by swelling, tumefaction or pain ; the ulceration shows itself a little after. There are two varieties—one occupies the neck and destroys it ; the other penetrates into the interior of the uterus, eats it, transforms it into a sort of thin shell, and furnishes a bloody and fetid pus. It is a disease inevitably fatal, except when limited to the neck of the womb, and cannot be destroyed by the knife or fire. The proper cancer is the fungus, or more rarely the scirrhous, but there are fewer of these diseases than others.

Some important remarks upon cancer, which are generally but little known, should not be forgotten. We have kept a number of these patients in the wards to prove, that, contrary to the general opinion, cancers of the womb are ordinarily but little painful. This idea, prevalent in the world, and even amongst physicians, that cancer of the womb is a disease extremely painful, has very grave inconveniences. Most of the patients that have been received, when asked why they had not sought advice sooner, answered that they had not suffered. Among authors, the picture of the sufferings of patients attacked with cancer of the womb is so hideous, that physicians do not pre-occupy themselves with a disease of the uterus when it is not accompanied by acute pains. Moreover, in practice, when a woman perceives some trouble of the womb without pain, we do not immediately propose an examination, because it would be disagreeable to her; and as pain is not always an accompanying symptom of cancer, a grave disease is allowed to proceed so long as the patient is free from acute pain. Some females, however, suffer much from cancer of the womb, and these are the persons who have furnished the examples of authors; a great number suffer at the end of the disease, when the degeneration invades the cellular tissue, the broad ligaments and the plexuses situated in those regions.

Among the ulcerations of the womb, we have not met with those varieties without number, herpetic, scorbutic, scrofulous, &c., which have been described by some authors. We cannot explain these multiplied divisions except by supposing that these authors have allowed themselves to be biassed for the time by some prevailing theoretical ideas in the science, which the keenest minds do not always escape. The granulations of the neck are almost always indicated, by a white discharge more or less abundant. This white discharge, milky or yellowish, sometimes tinged with blood, may be a symptom of other diseases, but most commonly indicates the existence of granulations. To this sign may be added pains in the stomach, the patients complain of growing thin, and of suffering in the kidneys and groins. When a patient presenting these different symptoms is touched by the finger well extended, the neck is found slightly augmented in size; it presents the sensation of some kind of grain, like a raspberry, but it is firmer. These characters are easy to recognize after one has acquired some skill. The granulations are more easily recognized by the touch than by the speculum. In using the speculum, one is certainly more exposed to error unless he has great skill. This may appear singular, yet it is true. When the instrument is introduced, the mucous membrane of the vagina presents two folds which may be mistaken for the neck; or, at other times, only one side of the neck may be visible, which may be healthy whilst the other is diseased. The finger is not liable to these mistakes; it is the best method, but does not prevent the use of the speculum. These two methods united give a degree of certainty not acquired by either separately. The comparison of the sensation furnished by the granulations to a raspberry or strawberry, is sufficiently exact. The granulations are found either scattered or in patches, and most frequently occupy the mouth, but sometimes are met with in the

interior of the neck. It is in this last case that the speculum is most useful. When the instrument is introduced and the neck embraced by its extremity, by pressing a little it enters the open mouth, and if there is a muco-purulent discharge discovered, granulations, without doubt, exist in the interior. These granulations, when observed in the interior of the cavity or upon the mouth, affect only the mucous membrane, the epithelium is destroyed, the papillary layer is exposed, but the tissue of the organ remains healthy. Granulations are rarely complicated with marked engorgement. This disease, so frequent at the present time, presents no other varieties; sometimes, it is true, there happen excoriations which terminate in ulcerations, but these do not merit attention and the disease is the same. The question of the most importance is this, are granulations dangerous? Some practitioners assert the affirmative; they believe them to be the cause of cancer of the womb; but this is not proved. There are so many women who have these granulations and who keep them a long time without having cancer, that it is doubtful that this last disease, so difficult to cure, can be a consequence of the first. One surgeon pretends that since these granulations are cured, he sees but few cases of cancer; truly, this only proves that patients affected with cancer no longer consult him; we, unfortunately, still see too many of them. This granular state of the neck can be cured in almost every case. We do not hesitate to say, that nineteen of twenty cases are cured, and generally with the same treatment. Cauterization of the granulated parts is the remedy par excellence. No person is ignorant of it, every one practises it, but not in the same manner, nor with the same caustic. One can cure them probably with any caustic, but not so easily nor so quickly, each caustic possessing a specific virtue of its own. For granulations, the nitrate of mercury is the most efficacious, and the most convenient, and is never injurious. The manner of procedure is very simple: a small pledget of lint, moderately wet with the liquid, is passed over the granulated parts, and is forced into the neck if granulations exist in the interior. These cauterizations are repeated every eight days during five or six weeks; they need not be continued longer. This precept is necessary in order to avoid an error injurious to the patient and into which one will certainly fall unless he conforms to it. When the cauterization has been well performed, there remains after it an ulceration, and if the surgeon continues to cauterize whilst it exists, one would never cease, because the ulceration is caused by the cauterization itself. A few baths and tonics complete the treatment, the success of which is nearly certain.

Deviations of the uterus are closely allied to granulations, and are met with simultaneously in a great number of cases. We have observed this year five examples of deviations, in all of which granulations existed at the same time. Twenty years since, we called attention to deviations of the womb; they have been known for a long time, without doubt, but have been considered only in their relations to parturition. We have demonstrated that there is not a more common lesion in the genital organs of women. The disease, or rather deformity, may exist and frequently does exist a long time, without being discovered. Women who are some-

times submitted to treatment for other diseases have absolutely nothing but deviations of the womb. These deviations present some varieties. The uterus will be displaced to the right, left, forward, backward, &c. It is necessary to distinguish these deviations from those which are called inversion, anteversion, retroversion, lateroversion, &c. The womb is more frequently inflexed than inversed. In inflexion the neck is found nearly in its natural place; the uterus, on the contrary, is turned either forward, backward, or aside. One of the reasons which contribute to keep a considerable number of these affections unknown is, that a certain number of practitioners who do not, or who do not wish to, recognize them, treat them under the name of engorgements of the womb. Besides, the medication of these physicians is easy to retain, it is always the same; for an anteversion, an anteversion, a retroversion, a fibrous body, a cancer, it is always the same thing. Pills of hemlock, small bleedings, absolute repose upon a long chair, a few baths, these are applied indifferently by these practitioners to all the diseases that we have designated, always under the title of engorgements. We do not say these never exist; we only say that they are very rare, and that in forty-five cases out of fifty, the patients treated for pretended engorgements have nothing but deviations. Moreover, in the actual state of our anatomo-pathological knowledge, what is understood by an engorgement of the womb? The diseases of the womb may be compared to those of the testicle and mamma. Is an engorgement, then, to be considered as a sequel of degenerescence? But this is a cancer, colloid, encephaloid, &c. Do they mean a simple sub-inflammation? But these diseases do not continue in this condition; they either become acute, or are resolved and cured. Where is the proof of these engorgements? Since they are so frequent, since women do not die of them, it happens certainly that some women who have them die of other diseases. Where, then, is the proof upon the dead body? Who has seen it? They surely are not lesions that disappear with life. The truth is, an error in diagnosis is made in these cases, and the cause of the error is this: when the surgeon, on examination, finds the neck of womb healthy, or not sufficiently diseased to account for the symptoms; when, besides, he finds in the pelvis a swelling, often painful, which fills up a part of the cavity, he considers it an engorgement. Proceeding from this, he prescribes the treatment for engorgements, a treatment which has had much vogue, founded upon the last murmurs of the school of Broussais. Small bleedings,—the extract of hemlock—baths for two or three hours, small cold lavements, frictions with the pomade of the iodurate of lead, &c. &c., and some other means of which we shall soon speak, such is the plan of treatment for engorgements, with the addition, as is well known, that the patient must rest in bed some months, which cannot fail to injure the general health, as one can easily comprehend. We say that engorgements have terminated their career. It is necessary to return to ideas of pathological anatomy more sound and conformed to observation. Can we say, then, that the disease being better known, we succeed better in curing it? At least, as we know the real cause of it, we comprehend the inutility of all those means which have been employed, and

understand that a mechanical means only can effect a cure, and in truth this is a very difficult thing. But at any rate, knowing the disease, we shall no longer be uneasy, we can reassure the family, and can finish by making those women walk that were condemned to an enfeebling and injurious repose—more liable to augment the accidents sometimes caused by the deviations, than to modify them and cause them to disappear. It is necessary that women affected with deviations of the uterus should have a generous diet and sufficient exercise. These two points are important. Thus, while we do not deny the existence of engorgements, we affirm that they are very rarely met with.

In classing the uterine affections in the order of their frequency in practice, we place, first, the granulations; then the deviations, these are affections daily met with; afterwards come the abnormal productions, fibrous bodies, cancers, engorgements, &c. Finally, we do not know any efficacious treatment against deviations. To watch the nervous system, to calm it, to sustain the digestive functions, to combat constipation, such are the indications against the general symptoms. The local means which have real efficacy, are the hypogastric girdles, pessaries and splints for replacing the uterus. We have nothing to say upon the other lesions; but in order to complete the list of the diseases of the sexual organs of women, we must include the affections of the mammae. These diseases have been twenty-six in number, seventeen of which were tumors.

Diseases of the anus have been divided as follows: three fissures, fourteen fistulas, four cases of hemorrhoids, one polypus, three cancers, five ulcers, eight abscesses, one retention of the feces. Time does not allow us to speak of these diseases. We will remark that none of these patients have died, which is singular, as each year previously diseases of the anus have proved fatal in several cases.

M. Velpeau intended to have made some remarks upon the operations performed in his service during the past year; but being pressed for time, he concluded to defer them and enter more fully into their consideration in his ensuing report.

This paper, by the general character of the subject, has been necessarily extended to considerable length. Some may think it verbose, but it is evidently written so as to be plain and intelligible. Velpeau expresses his opinions with the clearness and fearlessness of one who is certain of his position, and, as will be seen, has no mercy for those whose diagnosis and treatment are merely hypothetical. What the profession requires, is the observation of facts, not suppositions, and we have consequently brought forward this *resumé* as one which answers the double purpose of establishing sound and important truths, and demolishing uncertain and injurious errors.

THE PATENT "LETHEON."

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—I have always been opposed to quackery in any shape, I detest charlatanism in every form; *ergo*, I am not pleased with the method whereby the "new gas" and the patent "letheon" are offered to the public. Notwithstanding the respectable gentlemen of the *profession* who have undertaken to sustain Dr. Jackson and Mr. Morton in the (I do not say *unprofessional*) course they have taken, I believe the majority of medical men will disapprove the measure, even though this *vis-a-tergo* influence is still applied to the wheel. In this instance *aqua fortis* will avail nothing; for the profession, in the first place, are opposed to the use of patent remedies, and from education, i. e., long training, they hate them as they abhor those who *vivere lupo*. We are not yet satisfied who are really the inventors. If it should be proved that the inventors, or the *inventor*, is not Dr. J. or Mr. M., then those who could overlook the first difficulty will here meet with one more objectionable; they may well exclaim, *ohé ! jam satis*.

But suppose we grant the claimants the honor, &c., of the invention, and purchase the right, &c. &c. I can conceive that it may be many times a dangerous application, one that will increase the danger of every formidable operation, and render dangerous those that are not perilous, by its influence on the brain and its appendages, which at such times may prove very deleterious; a fact evident to all who are acquainted with the toxicological properties of the drug, and its action on the animal economy when administered sufficiently to induce insensibility and narcosis.

I have seen a quotation from the Albany Argus, stating that the "new gas" had been tried there (Albany), and its effects upon the patient were similar to those of the nitrous oxide gas; an unhappy effect, which consequently disappointed the operator, and afflicted the patient. This shows another objection to its use.

If it is sulphuric ether, I expect that its administration will frequently produce the excitement and intoxication caused by the nitrous oxide; for I have witnessed like appearances many times in those persons who have respired the ether. I have a right, therefore, to apprehend the difficulties and dangers I have alluded to, and feel bound to warn the inexperienced against the too hasty adoption of it, and also to ask the attention of the more practised to the subject, that all necessary precaution be taken, and the evil consequences that might result from indiscretion and precipitancy be avoided.

These, then, are the reasons that I have to offer, and they have been given without prejudice against or in favor of any person. I cannot sanction "*patent rights*" in a learned and liberal profession—I fear the operation of the new invention; and, whether valid or not, I have given my reasons—my *honest* but humble opinion. In closing, I am constrained to say, "*tempora mutantur, et nos mutamur in illis*"—for this could not have survived its birth in any other age.

CLAUDIAN.

December, 1846.

PRODIGIOUS FÆCAL ACCUMULATIONS IN THE RECTUM.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—On the 17th July, 1845, I was called to see F. C., a young lady aged about 15 years. Was informed that she had several times menstruated imperfectly, that she was somewhat troubled with costiveness, and that she had had no evacuation from the bowels during the three days last past. Tongue coated, white, not dry, skin hot and dry, pulse somewhat too frequent, and complained of pain in her head, with perfect loss of appetite. Prescription. Directed her to take six grains of the following pill mass every six hours. R. Soc. aloes, 3 iij.; g. scammony, 3 iss.; pulv. jalap, 3 iij. 1-4; hyd. proto-chlo., 3 i.; sapo. cast., gr. xv.; nit. pot., 3 ss.; tart. ant., 3 j.; ol. anise, arab. muc., aa q. s. to make a mass.

July 18.—Being about ten miles distant, I received a very urgent call to visit her; found her in great pain, like the last pains of labor, the intermissions being very short, yet very perfect; urgent and painful desire to pass urine, yet none had passed since the morning before (now 4 o'clock, P. M.). Cathartic pills have not operated, and was now informed that all the evacuations during the past two weeks had been but an occasional scanty discharge of mucus, and that such discharges were now being produced, the consequence of the excessive tenesmus. Deciding to introduce a catheter I attempted to pass a finger into the vagina, but was prevented by what appeared to be an unyielding mass, filling the whole pelvis, and pressing upward and forward so as to make it very difficult to pass the finger between it and the pubes. I accordingly carefully insinuated the point of a silver catheter into the urethra and passed it into the bladder, and discharged a quart or more of urine. The tenesmus still continued, and the acuteness of the pain was somewhat relieved, but the involuntary straining effort which characterizes the closing throes of labor still continued. With considerable difficulty I now passed a large-sized gum-elastic catheter into the rectum, and through a mass of fæcal matter, some ten inches, when adapting a syringe to the external end of the tube, I succeeded by dint of perseverance in forcing warm water through the plugged orifice of the upper end. After sending up about a quart of fluid, the catheter was withdrawn, and in two or three minutes more than a gallon of fæcal matter followed, consisting almost entirely of the seeds of raspberries. After another small evacuation, which followed in a few minutes, she became entirely comfortable. The next day I was again called, and finding much the same symptoms, resorted to the same means, and obtained a similar result. After this the urinary bladder and the rectum evacuated themselves without aid, and raspberry seeds continued to appear in the fæces for several days longer, though none had been eaten during the week previous to my first calling upon her. Since that time she has enjoyed her usual health.

I present this case to the notice of the profession, not on account of any peculiarity of the practice; indeed I think it was but what was indicated, and would have readily suggested itself to any reflecting physician; but 1, To show that a vast amount of fæcal matter may accumulate in the rectum, and also above the sigmoid flexure of the colon, while the

sensibility of the mucous membrane remains low as in cases of constipation, but that when this sensibility is increased, as it was in this case by the cathartic, violent symptoms are the consequence; and 2, That when the pelvis becomes sufficiently full to distend the perineum, the action of those muscles associated in the function of expelling the contents of the pelvic viscera is excited, and if this distension be proportionally increased their action becomes intermittent and involuntary. This phenomenon we have all so frequently witnessed in parturition, when the head of the child fully occupies the pelvis and rests on the perineum, that we find it difficult to view it as but a specific accompaniment of that series of phenomena, the aggregate of which constitutes labor. Indeed so strong did this influence operate upon my mind, in this case, that when preparing to introduce the catheter, notwithstanding the youth of my patient, and the character of the family being above suspicion, I could not divest myself of the feeling that, upon the finger entering the vagina, the head of a fœtus would present itself.

S. A. COOK.

*Buskirk's Bridge, N. Y., Jan. 4th, 1847.***LETTER FROM PERSIA—LEECHES IN INTERMITTENT FEVER, &c.**

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—Your favor of May 3d, 1845, accompanying the truss, has been lying by me a long time unacknowledged. Though at this late day, please accept my thanks for the truss. * * *

We have just heard that the cholera has broken out in Tehran, the capital, though we have no definite information yet of the extent of its ravages. A physician residing in Tabreez, writes me, under date of August 1st, in the following manner: "We are all consternation here, at present, at the news of the cholera being at Tehran. The Prince (Governor of this part of Persia) is most anxious to take all sanitary measures to prevent its arrival here, and has had communication with Dr. C. and myself on the subject, since which all the Rabab manufactories (cook-shops) have been sent outside of the town, and the selling of fruit diminished. Cleanliness is strictly enjoined, and a fresh supply of water let into the town from the gardens for watering the streets." The disease marched through these parts some twelve or fifteen years ago, and made dreadful havoc of human life. In many cases the natives, when attacked by it, used to throw themselves into a fountain or stream of cold water. The testimony is, as you would expect in such cases, that some lived and some died. By the way, what do you think of Andral's summary of the cholera? "Anatomical characters, insufficient; causes, mysterious; nature, hypothetical; symptoms, characteristic; diagnosis, easy; treatment, doubtful."

Are you familiar with the use of leeches, applied over the region of the spleen, in obstinate cases of intermittent fever? I have tried this treatment in two very bad cases, and with the most complete success. A Roman Catholic priest, a native of France, had been my patient some

time, and I had become almost discouraged in using quinine and arsenic. He became worse and worse, and, dropsical symptoms supervening, his friends thought he would certainly die, and I began to think so too. In this state, I heard that Dr. Bell, Physician to the British Embassy at the Court of Persia, had used leeches in similar cases with great success, and I determined to try them on my patient. Dr. Bell's mode is to apply them on the day the moon fulls, and to repeat them every full moon until the disease is conquered. Though I had, of course, little confidence that the moon had any thing to do in the matter, I made the experiment exact to the letter, and at the first full moon applied twelve leeches over the spleen, intending to repeat the application at the next full moon in case the disease did not give way. But to my delight, and, I may add, surprise too, the poor priest, sallow and dropsical as he was, began to recover from that day, and I had no occasion to repeat the leeches.

I recently made a professional visit to Badr Rhem Bey, the celebrated Roordish chief of Buhtem on the river Tigris. His son, a youth of 12 or 14 years of age, had been suffering for about a year and a half from ague and fever of the *quartan* kind. He was reduced to a state which gave much uneasiness to his friends. At first I tried a purge and quinine, but without success. Indeed his next attack was more severe than before he had taken the medicine. I concluded to resort to the use of leeches, though some of his friends thought he would certainly die, if he were to lose blood, pale and emaciated as he was. Without regarding the moon as in the former case, I applied six leeches the day before he expected a paroxysm, and on the morning of the next day, gave him two doses of quinine of four grains each. The disease was broken from that time. What comments have you to make on these cases?

Many, many thanks for your Journal. It is always very acceptable.

I remain, my dear sir, yours very truly, A. H. WRIGHT.

Oroomiah, August 12, 1846.

MESMERIC PRESCRIPTION.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—If the medical practitioner in his professional business meets with much that is disagreeable and annoying, he occasionally, also, meets with something that is agreeable and amusing or ludicrous; so that the prescriber of powders and pills for the sick, is not, I believe, necessarily more unhappy or more tormented than those of other pursuits. But to come directly to the subject of this communication. I was recently called to a young married woman, the mother of one child, who, I learned, had been suffering for some months with what a medical author calls "the scourge of married life," prolapsus uteri and leucorrhœa. As the symptoms in the case led me to conclude that the disease had existed a considerable time, I inquired whether she had used any treatment. She said she had not considered herself "sick enough to have a doctor," but that she had, by the advice of a female friend, some two months ago,

been to a mesmerizer, that she had been using the mesmerizer's prescriptions, and that she had the recipes in her possession. At my request she produced a paper, of which the following is a copy, *verbatim, literatim, and punctuatim*.

"R. Snuff, to be taken 3 or 4 times a day. Bath Each Morning with Cold Water. Bath the Side and Shoulders, Back and pelvis, each Night, with Brandy, 5th preparation. Bath the Head with the Tincture of Meadow, fern and Seawater one Spoonful 3 or 4 times a day and when it *feels* heated. Ante Mercurial Syrup. After taking one Bottle of this Commence taking the Strengthening Syrup the Same way. Spice Bitters. Apply the Irritating plaster Between the Shoulders. \$388."

All was sufficiently intelligible, except the \$388, which I was informed meant that she paid \$3.88 for the medicine. I then inquired whether she had derived any benefit from the medicine. She said she had not received much benefit, but she thought the snuff did some good, more than any other of the remedies.

If you think the above most scientific and most profound prescription will sufficiently amuse, not to say enlighten, your readers, please insert it in your Journal, and hand it down to posterity for the benefit of all future time.

GEO. HUBBARD.

Boston, December, 1846.

NÆVI MATERNI.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

A NEIGHBOR of ours had a pair of Muscovi ducks. In the spring, as usual, the duck dropped her eggs wherever she happened to be. At this time the ducks got out of the yard and strayed to the river. To scare them from the water their owner threw a stone at them, which happened to hit the drake upon the head, inflicting a severe wound. After a time they were conveyed to the house. For a number of days the drake lay upon his side, and the duck stood over him expressing a great amount of sympathy and anxiety. The curiosity of the incident is, that about this time the duck made her nest, and in due time, from eight eggs, hatched eight ducks, each having a similar wound upon the head, and were unable to stand, but lay upon the side in like manner as the drake had done. They lived but a short time; the last died on the fifth day.

J. H. M.

Ellington, Ct., Dec. 30, 1846.

INSENSIBILITY DURING SURGICAL OPERATIONS BY INHALATION.

[THE following is from the New York Journal of Medicine and the Collateral Sciences, edited by Dr. Charles A. Lee.]

Much has been said of late in some of our exchanges in reference to this matter. From them we gather that it is a patented preparation, and that the substance used is (in all probability) "an ethereal solution of some

narcotic substance ;" it is inhaled from a " small two-necked glass globe ;" it renders the patient insensible for a period varying from two to forty-five minutes or more ; it is not safe even when administered in a skilful manner to children ; serious and almost fatal consequences have followed the inhalation of it by adults possessing susceptible constitutions, all of which render it (when administered judiciously) a limited, dangerous, and uncertain preparation—even supposing it to be presented to the profession in a proper manner, which, we are compelled to say, is not the case. Nor is this all. We are sorry to see many of our brethren, at home and abroad, stooping from the exalted position they occupy in the profession, to hold intercourse with, and become the abettors of, quackery in any form. Such doings are certainly contrary to the ethics of the profession, and should not be tolerated for a moment in any one.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, JANUARY 20, 1847.

Regulations of the Massachusetts General Hospital.—The special attention of medical gentlemen in the country, is called to an advertisement in this week's Journal, regarding the regulations of the Massachusetts General Hospital in the admission of patients. Dr. Thayer is taking the right method to prevent a recurrence of mistakes and disappointments. The institution is admirably conducted, and may, without hazard of contradiction, be called the first hospital in America.

Boston Lunatic Hospital.—In the recent report of the board of visitors the institution is represented to be in a very satisfactory condition. Improvements and additional accommodations were demanded, in consequence of the prodigious influx of pauper lunatics from Europe. More and longer wings to the present ones, it seems, will soon be required. In connection with this report, is another by Dr. Stedman, which is a plain, exact account of the internal administration of the institution. One hundred and sixty-nine patients, viz., 85 males and 84 females, now remain in the hospital. It appears that the discharges never equal the admissions, and, in the nature of things, never will. Of the present 169 resident lunatics, 90 of them are foreigners ; 70 of whom are from Ireland. Eleven of the United States are represented in this hospital, yet these do not equal, in number, the lunatics from Europe, who are supported by the citizens of Boston. The act of sending idiots, insane paupers and feeble old people from parishes in the three kingdoms, to save the cost of supporting them at home, is notorious. Dr. Stedman says that intemperance continues to be the exciting cause of insanity in many who are confided to his care. We like the tone of his report, because it breathes a spirit of benevolence, while the feeling of responsibility is apparent in every line. If it were possible to restore all the inmates to health and reason, it is very certain he would do it.

Pauper Statistics of Sickness in Boston.—There are three public institutions at South Boston, of which Dr. Stedman is the medical officer. One of these has been already alluded to. In the other two, the following is a report of the cases of sickness for one year :

House of Industry.—Number of patients remaining, July 1st, 1845, 40 ; admitted since, 940. Whole number under treatment, 980. Of these have recovered, 634 ; improved, 96 ; been removed, 17 ; died, 102 ; number remaining at this date, 71.

House of Correction.—Number of patients remaining, July 1st, 1845, 14 ; admitted since, 741. Whole number under treatment, 755. Of these have recovered, 659 ; improved, 42 ; been removed, 31 ; died, 12 ; number remaining at this date, 11.

Dr. Green's Work on Diseases of the Air Passages.—A correspondent, referring to the late review of "*Green on Bronchitis*," directs our attention to the *Medico-Chirurgical Review* for November, 1837, and again for January, 1838, wherein he says it appears that Dr. Johnson was perfectly familiar with the claims of Trousseau and Belloc to the merit of treating the diseases of the larynx, by topical applications of the nitrate of silver ; and this long before the reported conversation with Dr. Horace Green in London, when he is represented to have suggested the idea to the latter gentleman, upon which he acted upon his return home. We have not those numbers of the *Review* by us, and therefore are unable to say whether, as is here intimated, the truth of the charge of plagiarism, preferred against Dr. G. by *Medicus* in our *Journal* of the 16th ult., and by the editor of the *New York Annalist*, is confirmed or not. We take this opportunity of saying, however, that the charge of *Medicus* was inserted wholly on the responsibility of a correspondent of high standing and superior qualifications, and who assured us that proofs of its truth were lying by him. Although unwilling to believe such things of Dr. Green, of whom we have with pleasure spoken favorably in former times, yet we could not, under the circumstances, decline the insertion of the review of his book and do justly by the profession for whom we are laboring. We can only add that it will give us much pleasure to publish anything which he or his friends may prepare, tending to exculpate him from the charge which has been made, and we are sure our correspondent will also rejoice to be convinced of the originality of Dr. G. in this matter.

New York Correspondence.

Letheon in New York.—Dr. Alexander E. Hosack has twice permitted the experiment of administering the ethereal vapor by Morton's apparatus, as preliminary to surgical operations, during the last week. The first case was an amputation of the thigh, the patient being rendered entirely insensible and unconscious during the removal of the limb, but recovering his sensibility during the ligation of the arteries, and before the dressing of the stump, so as to require a repetition of the inhalation, to which he readily assented. Dr. Hosack's other case was the removal of a scirrhus

testis which had acquired a formidable size. In this instance the respiration of the letheon produced obvious narcotism, attended with a pulse of 130, dilated pupils, stertorous breathing, and a suffused countenance, red eyes, &c.; with a convulsive tremor of the limbs, ending in muscular relaxation when the full effect was induced. The incisions and a part of the dissection were made without any betrayal of sensibility on the part of the patient; but, as in the other case, the consciousness returned before the operation was completed, and the man refused to inhale any more of the gas, admitting, however, that he had thus far felt no pain. Both these patients testify to the entire unconsciousness which resulted from the inhalation, while the effects lasted.

Dr. Mott has lately succeeded in the operation for fistula in ano, which required no less than five incisions in different directions, the patient being meanwhile obviously insensible to pain, and entirely unconscious that the operation had been commenced. Similarly happy results were produced by the letheon in a patient from whom a carcinomatous mamma was removed by the same gentleman, so that the possibility of annihilating both consciousness and sensibility during painful operations by this agency is now amply proved to candid men by the experience of distinguished men here, as well as at Boston and elsewhere.

The objections to its use, however, are various, and some of them being urged with much vehemence and not a little plausibility, will doubtless restrict somewhat its usefulness.

1st, It is considered unprofessional, among scientific men, to employ any remedial agency, of the precise nature of which they are ignorant. The secrecy, therefore, alleged by its proprietor, is deemed an ample reason for proscribing it.

To this objection it is replied, that though announced as a secret remedy by Mr. Morton, it is only the mode of preparation which is secret, the agent being known to be sulphuric ether, and this alone and uncompound; its concentration and elimination from its free acid or other impurities, being effected by a peculiar process.

2nd, It is regarded equally unprofessional to employ any patented remedies; and those surgeons who have allowed this patent agent to be employed as an experiment to test its usefulness, have been reprobated and denounced by some of their compeers.

To this it has been replied that the patent only covers whatever is peculiar in the preparation of the ether for the purpose so as to secure uniformity in its strength, together with the apparatus for inhalation, which is both neat and ingenious in its construction. While, as a caveat to both these objections, it is urged, that it is not more unprofessional than to employ Henry's calcined magnesia, McMunn's elixir of opium, or even James's powder, &c.

Still another objection has been made, which, if well founded, would of itself be fatal to the adoption of the letheon in capital operations. It is predicted that the suspension of sensibility to pain, is purchased at the sacrifice of the recuperative energies of the system, so that the healing of the wounds after operations will be hindered, if not prevented, by the use of this new agency. But no physiological or pathological law, to be found in any theory, can gainsay the facts of experience, furnished by the united testimony of the leading surgeons of the country, as in Boston, Salem, New York and elsewhere, by which the contrary has been testified, union

by the first intention having supervened in several of these cases with unusual promptness, and no untoward result having followed in any one of them.

The most formidable objection to the use of this new agent, and the only one to which no answer has yet been given, applies with great force against its indiscriminate application, and equally against its employment at all, except in very painful operations, the severity of which may justify the positive and direct interference with the integrity of so important and delicate a structure as the brain, as the letheon obviously produces. That it ought not to be employed by dentists as preliminary to their minor operations, there should be but one opinion among conscientious men; and there will be little diversity of sentiment among such men, after they shall have used it or seen it used for such purposes. Indeed there can be little doubt that its indiscriminate or very frequent use, upon trivial occasions, will be followed by mischiefs which will be deplored by the operators, as well as their victims, unless very great caution be observed in the selection of cases, and in the extent to which its inhalation is permitted.

The observations made here upon the few cases of its employment, would suggest the following rules for safely using it.

1st, It should never be inhaled by children or by aged persons.

2nd, Individuals of plethoric habit, or much nervous excitability, should be warned against its use.

3rd, Persons predisposed to paralysis, convulsions, or other nervous diseases, should not be allowed to inhale it.

4th, It will be a hazardous experiment to use it in any patient while vascular congestions exist in any vital organ, but especially if in the brain.

5th, No one should inhale it who is not assured of possessing sound lungs, and general good health, for in such only can it be employed safely.

6th, It should never be advised as preliminary to tooth-drawing, or other brief operations of minor character, for the reason that the pain of these, however acute, had better be endured, than to incur the risk, even momentarily, of engorging the vessels of the brain by this potent agent.

7th, It is only in capital operations, involving the necessity of extensive wounds, and painful incisions through sensitive textures, that this agency can be recommended, and even in these for impunity from subsequent mischiefs, a judicious discrimination of temperaments and predispositions will be advisable.

Under such limitations and restrictions only can the letheon be regarded as a valuable or useful discovery.

Academy of Medicine.—The Academy of Medicine, to which allusion was made in former Nos. of the Journal, was organized by the adoption of a Constitution and By-laws, with great unanimity, on the 6th inst. On the 13th, the following officers were elected—Dr. John Stearns, *President*; Drs. F. U. Johnston, Thomas Cock, John W. Francis, J. B. Beck, *Vice Presidents*; Dr. F. Campbell Stewart, *Recording Secretary*; Dr. Wm. C. Roberts, *Domestic Corresponding Secretary*; Dr. Benjamin Drake, *Foreign Corresponding Secretary*; Dr. Robert Watts, Jr., *Treasurer*; Dr. Thomas M. Markoe, *Librarian*. Two hundred physicians have now attached their names as members. Its object is represented to be the separation of regular from irregular practitioners, as indicated by the fol-

lowing article, viz.:—"No proprietor or vender of any secret nostrum or patent remedy, nor any other empirical or irregular practitioner, shall either be admitted to, or retained in the fellowship of this Academy." The association thus formed is designed to be both literary and ethical.

Delegates to the National Medical Convention.—The Medical Faculty of the University of Pennsylvania, have appointed of their number, Drs. Chapman, Jackson and Wood, to represent them in the Convention in May next.

The Philadelphia Medical Society, at a meeting held November 21st, elected the following gentlemen as delegates to the Convention: Drs. Bell, Emerson, Isaac Parrish, West, Ashmead, Norris, B. H. Conates, Bond, S. G. Morton, Yardley and Griscom. There is still a vacancy to be filled up by the election of a delegate, so as to complete the number, twelve, authorized by the Society.

The College of Physicians of Philadelphia, at a meeting, Dec. 1st, appointed a delegation to consist of Drs. Hewson, J. W. Moore, S. Jackson (formerly of Northumberland County), Hays, A. Stillé, J. R. Paul, Pepper, Fox, Randolph, C. Morris, Condie and Bridges.

The Medical Society of New Jersey, which dates its origin from the 23d of July, 1766, and to age adds the merit of high standing among similar associations in the United States, has elected delegates to the Convention. The list consists of Drs. Smith and Peirson of Essex County, Marsh of Passaic, Stewart of Morris, Forman of Mercer, Parrish of Burlington, Taylor and Cooper of Camden, Garrison of Gloucester, and Howell of ———.

The District Medical Society of Burlington County has appointed, as delegates, Drs. Cole, Stratton, and Read.

The delegates of the Philadelphia Medical Society, and of the College of Physicians, have been directed, respectively, to make arrangements, in connection with the delegates that may be appointed by other institutions in the city, for the reception and a suitable place of meeting of the Convention.

The Vermont Medical Society has appointed Drs. Charles Hall, C. W. Horton, A. G. Dana, and Dyer Storer, as its delegates to the Convention.

—*Bulletin of Med. Science.*

The Faculty of Geneva Medical College have appointed Professors Charles A. Lee, C. B. Coventry and James Webster, as delegates to the same Convention.

TO SUBSCRIBERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.—Those subscribers whose subscription for the past year or for previous years is unpaid, are informed that their early attention to the bills which were some time since enclosed to them, will greatly oblige the publisher. Those at a distance can make remittances through their postmasters.—The papers of Drs. Flagg, Davidson, Hoyt and Nason, and one by "Claudian," are received.

Report of Deaths in Boston—for the week ending Jan. 16th. 62.—Males, 33—females, 29. Stillborn, 7. Of consumption, 12—dropsy, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 4—inflammation of the brain, 3—paralysis, 2—delirium tremens, 1—disease of the heart, 4—dropsy on the brain, 5—typhus fever, 5—child-bed, 1—infantile, 8—marasmus, 4—bronchitis, 1—old age, 1—hip joint disease, 1—rupture of bloodvessel, 1—intemperance, 1—burns, 1—inflammation of the lungs, 2—suicide, 1—lung fever, 1—influenza, 1—diarrhoea, 1.

Under 5 years, 25—between 5 and 20 years, 3—between 20 and 40 years, 17—between 40 and 60 years, 10—over 60 years, 6.

Memphis Medical College. Complimentary Resolutions of the Class.—The students of the Memphis Medical College, having learned that Ethelbert Dudley, M.D., a member of the Transylvania School of Medicine, had—through the pages of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal—for the purpose of injuring the Memphis Medical School, spoken disrespectfully of the then Professor elect to the Chair of Materia Medica and Therapeutics, of said School, assembled this day as a class, and through a committee, consisting of twelve members of the class, adopted the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That, having heard Professor Ramsey lecture upon the subjects pertaining to the Chair which he fills in this institution, we think our opinions are entitled to more respect than the unwarrantable surmising of a prejudiced individual.

Resolved, That, inasmuch as several of the members of the present class have attended lectures very recently, at the Medical Department of Transylvania University, and other medical institutions in the Union—without intending to be invidious, Professor Ramsey, though “Young,” loses nothing by comparison with those occupying the same Chair in other schools.

Resolved, That the charge of inexperience and youth, preferred against the Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics, in the Memphis Medical College, has not disqualified him from rendering the most perfect satisfaction to this class.

Resolved, That Dr. Dudley would have shown himself and his advisers possessed of consideration, had he deferred an attack upon our professor, until his capacity as a teacher had been exposed to a class.

Resolved, That these resolutions be forwarded to the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, with a request that they be published.

Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 28th, 1846.

A. A. TERRUNE,

Chairman of Committee.

Dental Association of Ohio.—This congress of western dentists is composed of members from the valley of the Mississippi. The second annual meeting, recently, at Cincinnati, was characterized by energy and a disposition to elevate the profession. Dr. Joseph Taylor delivered an excellent address. Dr. Allen, of the Association, has patented a dental improvement. Dr. Edward Taylor, of Louisville, Ky., was elected President. It was resolved to commence a quarterly publication, should a committee, to whom the matter was entrusted, think it advisable. The next meeting is to be held at Cincinnati, the first Tuesday in September, 1847.

Medical Miscellany.—Dr. Benjamin S. Muhlenburg, of Pennsylvania, has been appointed Surgeon in the U. S. Volunteer Troops; and Dr. George Dock, of Pennsylvania, Assistant Surgeon. Also Dr. James Davis, of South Carolina, Surgeon; and Dr. Elbert Bland, of South Carolina, Assistant Surgeon.—Dr. Wm. Morris has been elected Speaker of the House of Representatives in New Hampshire.—The Dental Journal of Science says that the first complete double set of artificial teeth worn in America, belonged to Aaron Burr, and was made in Paris.—One hundred and sixty students are in attendance on the medical lectures in Boston.—Fears are entertained that the cholera will soon reach Constantinople, where there is food in plenty for its destructive agency.